

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re U.S. Patent Application of)
HATA et al.)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND A METHOD OF)
MANUFACTURING THE SAME)
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. HITA.0543)**

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant has amended the claims by deleting claims 16-24. Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: